

The Times-Dispatch

Business Office...Times-Dispatch Building
10 South Tenth Street.
South Richmond...1020 Hull Street
Washington Bureau...109 N. Sycamore Street
Petersburg Bureau...218 Eighth Street
Lynchburg Bureau...218 Eighth Street

BY MAIL. One Six Three One
POSTAGE PAID. Year. Mos. Mos. Mo.
Daily with Sunday...\$6.00 \$2.00 \$1.50
Daily without Sunday...4.00 2.00 1.00
Sunday edition only...2.00 1.00 .50

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg—One Week.
Daily with Sunday...15 cents
Daily without Sunday...10 cents
Sunday edition only...5 cents

Entered January 27, 1904, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1914.

MR. HOUSTON'S FEE BILL.

We cannot in our entire history find a fee bill prepared by Delegate Houston, of Hampton, and printed this morning in The Times-Dispatch, but we welcome it as the first concrete proposal for the immediate solution of the problem and as the basis for the legislation Virginia needs.

Mr. Houston's bill provides that fees shall be collected as heretofore, and that from the aggregate amount the court shall allow the fee officer a proper sum for his deputies and for his contingent expenses. From the residue, the officer shall receive a fixed compensation (as yet undetermined) for each 1,000 of population in his district. The remainder, if any, is to go to the treasury of the county or city where collected. In view of services rendered for which no fees are allowed by law, Mr. Houston would permit the localities to pay the officers "such salaries" as are now or may be hereafter allowed by law to be paid them. We would also fix an absolute maximum for all salaries.

This plan has four obvious advantages. Its adoption will make it possible to begin the reformation of the fee system at once, without the delay necessary for such detailed reports as were required under the terms of the West bill. As soon as an officer's term expired, his successor could be automatically placed under the new law regardless of the previous return from the office.

The second advantage of Mr. Houston's plan is that it would reduce to a minimum the opposition of those on whom this law will operate. There could be no such political log-rolling as would be witnessed were attempts made to fix by act of Assembly the exact compensation of the more important fee officers.

Then, too, this plan is simplicity itself and is thereby commended. It has, in addition, the fourth and crowning virtue of a practical test, for it is almost precisely the measure passed in the New Jersey Legislature as a part of the Wilson reform program.

But to Mr. Houston's bill there are at least three objections. These are:

1. We do not see how this plan can equitably be applied to all fee officers. Some such arrangement as that proposed might apply equitably to all sheriffs, or to all clerks, or to all sergeants; but it could not work justice if applied to all three classes and to all other officers whose compensation is fixed in part by fees. What would be just compensation, the 1,000 of population, for clerks, might be too much or too little for sheriffs or for some other group of public servants.

2. We do not believe it will be the policy of wisdom to place in the hands of the local courts the responsibility of determining what allowance shall be made fee officers for their employees and for their contingent expenses. It may be argued of course, whom shall we trust if not the judges. But we do not believe it will be justice to require the judge to determine what special allowances shall be made the officers upon whose influence he is in some measure dependent for re-election. This will of necessity place the judge in close and embarrassing relation to the "courtroom" ring.

We are confirmed in this opinion by a study of the statements filed with the clerk of the Senate in accordance with the West resolution. These statements bear out the contentions of The Times-Dispatch, and incidentally show that the expenses of some fee officers constitute a far larger percentage of their total fees than in other instances. The difference is, indeed, so marked as to suggest extravagance on the part of some officers and more or less commendable economy on the part of others. We doubt the wisdom of requiring the courts to pass on the extravagance or economy of the fee officers.

3. We cannot see the justice of giving to the locality the fees that remain after the payment of the officers and their deputies. These fees are imposed not by local ordinance, but by State law, and are as much a part of the State's taxes as are the return from the deed tax or the tax on polls. The disposition of the fees, after the payment of expenses, should be the same.

We submit these criticisms to Mr. Houston in a friendly spirit and we appreciate his earnest efforts to correct a known evil. We shall be most happy to co-operate with him in correcting these defects of his plan, in the hope that from his labors will result that just and reasonable system of compensation for which the public is clamoring.

The Birmingham Age-Herald is running a series on "The Great Trials of History." Alabama's greatest trial, we should think, is Hobson.

Ex-Vice-President Levi P. Morton has resumed his residence in Washington. Just as a little exercise in history, in what administration did he serve and, who are the other living ex-Vice-Presidents?

The man who said "It's an ill-wind that blows nobody good" must have had the coal man in mind.

MRS. WASHINGTON'S WILL.

If a public record loses its public character because it has been stolen, the Commonwealth of Virginia wishes to know it. If the will of Mrs. Washington became legitimate loot because it was taken by force from the clerk's office of Fairfax County, patriotic Americans may say farewell to their precious manuscripts or else keep guards on duty to protect them.

Justice cannot countenance what war may have permitted. The will of Mrs. Washington was a part of the public records of a Virginia court. Upon its preservation depends even now the title to property in Northern Virginia. Neither secession nor alleged "rebellion" can change the fundamental character of the will or make it any less a public record. Furthermore, as Congress has taken pains to declare that Virginia never seceded, but was under the control of public enemies, the justification of war cannot be alleged as an excuse for theft.

We can see no real difference at law, when all the facts are taken into consideration, between the man who might enter the clerk's office at Fairfax to steal the will of George Washington and the man who entered the office at some uncertain time during the war and purloined the last testament of Washington's wife. If the will of Washington were stolen, it would, upon recovery and identification, be returned without question. The same should be true of Mrs. Washington's will.

The Times-Dispatch cannot agree with those who believe that Virginia should not proceed in this case because such action will tend to keep stolen manuscripts from the market. This result may follow, but it should not prevent the law from being to recover stolen property. Proceedings against one "fence" may make others hesitate in selling stolen goods, but that possibility does not justify inaction.

We are not now prepared to say what Virginia must do to recover this will, which, we doubt not, Mr. Morgan bought and paid for in good faith. But we know that Virginia, by repeated statutes, has asserted her control of her public documents, and has never, in any way, admitted that time, theft or accident destroys the State's right to the records of her courts. Before West Virginia could get public documents relating to land titles in the State, it had to procure the consent of the mother State by special legislative enactment. Where no such act is passed the title to its records remains in the State, and is not annulled by time. This is also the opinion of the New York courts. In the action brought by New York City to recover a letter to the corporation written by General Washington and offered for sale a few years ago, it was declared by the courts that the lapse of time did not affect the city's claim or destroy the public character of the document.

The Times-Dispatch favors such action to recover the will of Mrs. Washington as careful study of the law will suggest. If an act of Assembly is necessary before the Commonwealth can proceed, let us have the act; if existing statutes suffice, let us bring suit without delay. Virginia's archives have been looted so shamelessly and her treasures stolen so remorselessly that we cannot fail to proceed for the recovery of any records that may appear on the market or in private hands.

ANOTHER WORLD'S RECORD.

During the twelve months just ended we increased our lead as the greatest coal-producing country on earth. We mined between 555,000,000 and 575,000,000 short tons of coal in 1913, an increase of approximately 20,000,000 tons over the record-breaking production of 1912. We have left Germany and Great Britain, who used to be far ahead of us, far in our wake. For fourteen years the United States has led the world in coal output.

This record has been wrought despite labor disturbances in various parts of the land. The most vigorous labor disaffection was in Colorado, where a general strike was ordered in mid-September. Coal production in that State in the last quarter of the year was consequently but little more than 50 per cent of normal. There was widespread complaint, especially in the Eastern States, of shortage of labor and inability on the part of operators to keep their mines working at full capacity. Coal mining was also interfered with by the floods in the Ohio Valley. Probably from 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 tons of coal would have been added to the annual production but for that great disaster. There were no violent fluctuations in the demand by the blast furnaces, steel works and other manufacturing industries, so the requirement for coal for those purposes showed only normal increase. The continued decrease in the production of fuel oil in the mid-continent oil fields, and the Colorado strike resulted in an increased output of coal in the Southwestern States.

The coal production in 1913 was 531,556,556 short tons. The 1913 output probably would have exceeded 575,000,000 tons, but for the general shortage of labor in the larger coal-producing States. This deficiency in labor supply materially aided operators to maintain prices, and prevented glutting of the market. Naturally, there was a slight resultant advance in prices over 1912.

Virginia in 1913 was one of the two Eastern States which showed increased coal production. In 1913, Virginia's output was 6,851,647 short tons, while the amount estimated for 1912 was 5,900,000. Compare this last figure with Seward's estimate of 30,000 tons in 1870, and some idea of Virginia's increased productivity in this field is secured.

"Mexico Believes Huerta Will Take the Field," says a headline. More likely he'll take to the tall timbers.

"Everybody's doing it. Don't wait! Everybody's doing it. Don't wait!" Punish for Governor in North Carolina.

OUR FRIENDS STAND BY US.

This morning's news, regarding the Federal reserve banks, makes it plain that our friends in Carolina are standing by us, while New York capitalists, following their old habit, are fighting to divide the reserve banks among their favored friends.

We may as well admit that our contest for the Federal reserve bank is not with a Southern, but with a Northern rival. The splendid people of North Carolina, true to their traditions, are as active as we in fighting for the establishment of the bank in Richmond, Tarboro, Rocky Mount and Wilson are already in line; bankers from every part of the old North State have telegraphed encouragement; the Carolina Bankers' Association will probably signify their approval of the plan to-day. If the wishes of the South are considered, Richmond will be the reserve center for this section of the Atlantic seaboard.

But there is a very manifest desire on the part of Northern bankers to invade the territory of the South, and to strengthen their financial institutions at our expense. The dispatches which we print this morning from New York show a fine contempt for Richmond's claims, and an unconcealed desire to place the reserve bank where they will include not only the territory dependent now upon New York, but all the territory that can, by any possible means, be subjected to the control of the metropolis. New York bankers intend to add either Baltimore or Washington in a contest for a reserve bank, which will include Virginia and probably North Carolina.

This we shall fight as unwisely, unreasonable, and utterly contrary to the spirit of the announcement made by the organization committee. Virginia, North Carolina and adjacent States have practically nothing in common with Baltimore. Financially, industrially and economically we belong with the South, and cannot be made a part of a Northern reserve district, except by a gross violation of every principle of justice, prudence and expediency.

We do not believe for a moment that the stamp of Secretaries Houston and McAdoo will listen to the pleas of New York bankers who wish to dominate the new reserve district. We believe that they will group the district in accordance with the policy announced in their preliminary circular. If so, they cannot fail to heed the united appeal of the banks and business interests of this section of the Union. Richmond is the one, and the only logical site between New York and Atlanta.

THE OUTGOING SENATORS.

Thirty-one of the ninety-six members of the United States Senate must retire March 3, 1915 unless they are re-elected in the meantime. Many of them will be absent much of the time during the next session of Congress in order to mend their fences, to which of late they have been able to give little attention. Seventeen of those whose seats will be vacated are Republicans and fourteen are Democrats. The Republicans are naturally the most concerned about their seats, because their party is divided in almost every State into Progressive and Regular factions. The power of the Bull Mooseers to defeat in many places is conceded.

The Senators whose terms end in 1915 are: Gallinger, Republican, New Hampshire; Perkins, Republican, California; Penrose, Republican, Pennsylvania; Dillingham, Republican, Vermont; Clarke, Democrat, Arkansas; Newlands, Democrat, Nevada; Overman, Democrat, North Carolina; Smoot, Republican, Utah; Stone, Democrat, Missouri; Brandegee, Republican, Connecticut; Stephenson, Republican, Wisconsin; Smith, Democrat, Maryland; Cummins, Republican, Iowa; Bradley, Republican, Kentucky; Bristow, Republican, Kansas; Burton, Republican, Ohio; Chamberlain, Democrat, Oregon; Fletcher, Democrat, Florida; Crawford, Republican, South Dakota; Jones, Republican, Washington; Root, Republican, New York; Shively, Democrat, Indiana; Smith, Democrat, South Carolina; Thornton, Democrat, Louisiana; Groun, Republican, North Dakota; Smith, Democrat, Georgia; Thomas, Democrat, Colorado; Brady, Republican, Idaho; Sherman, Republican, Illinois.

Of the Republicans, Stephenson, of Wisconsin, will not offer for re-election. Senator Perkins, of California, will be the same boat, and Hiram Johnson, Bull Moose candidate for Vice-President in 1912, and Francis J. Heney will seek the seat he vacates. Bristow, of Kansas, will have strong opposition. Gallinger, of New Hampshire, the senior member of the Senate, may not be a candidate for re-election. Elihu Root, if he finds his support divided, will probably not seek to return. Penrose will in all likelihood be opposed, but has a good chance for another term. Bradley, of Kentucky, will undoubtedly be overwhelmed by his strong Democratic opponents. Brandegee, of Connecticut, a New Haven Railroad Senator, can hardly be returned because of his affiliations.

Of the Democrats, a number will probably have no opposition for re-election. Overman, of North Carolina, is slated to have at least two opponents within his party. Stone, of Missouri, appears to have overcome the hostility to himself at home. No contender against Smith, of Georgia, has yet arisen. Smith, of South Carolina, will be opposed by Governor Cole Blaise, and at present it seems that Smith will win by a slight lead.

It is thought that some Senators of moderate means will not offer for re-election under the new direct election system, which compels a candidate and his supporters to organize, finance and conduct two popular campaigns, one for the nomination within the party and the other for election by the whole electorate, each involving the expense of a regular election.

WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

Congress.
In the Senate, the President laid before the body resolutions adopted by the Legislature of Georgia expressing a determination to prosecute the war with vigor.
In the House, the Speaker appointed a committee to inquire into the outrages committed by the enemy in North Carolina.
The debate on repealing the conscription exemptions was continued.

The Legislature.
The Senate and House each invited General John H. Morgan to a seat of honor in its chamber.

General Morgan's Reception.
Yesterday morning about 11 the committee of the City Council to tender the hospitality of the city to General Morgan escorted him from the Hall of the House to the City Hall. The City Battalion acted as escort. General Morgan was seated in the carriage with Mayor Mayo and Councilmen Hill and Saunders. Carriages containing the rest of the Council committee and other guests followed. As the procession passed along Main Street large crowds thronged the sidewalks and the most intense anxiety was exhibited to get a sight of the hero. General Morgan recognized the crowd and bowed the compliment paid him in the crowded wind-downs along the line of the procession. Despite the inclemency of the weather, a vast concourse of soldiers and citizens assembled in front of the Hall and in the Capitol Square, opposite many ladies filled the Hustings Court room in the hall.

At 12:30 the sound of martial music heralded the approach of the honored guest of the city, preceded by the Army Band and the City Battalion, and followed by his staff, the City Council of Richmond, the Kentucky delegation in the Confederate Congress and a number of the distinguished military officers of the Confederate army in uniform. When General Morgan arrived he was greeted by a throng of citizens at once taken to the portico of the City Hall, where he was surrounded by General A. P. Hill, Edward Johnson, J. E. B. Stuart, Branch, of North Carolina, and Major Heros Von Borcke.

General Morgan was seen to be a man of commanding figure, of thirty-eight or forty, bearing no traces upon his countenance of the indignities, hardships and dangers he had recently passed through. He is full six feet high, with keen, dark eyes, and features which, not regularly handsome, are indicative at once of benevolence, thought and high physical courage. His dark hair was stylishly cut, and he wore a mustache and goatee. He was dressed in a citizen's suit of black and a military cap.

He was introduced by Mayor Mayo, who called him the second Marlton of the South. General Morgan came forward and said: "Fellow-citizens: I thank you for this reception, and I hope my future career will prove that I am not unworthy of the honor you have done me. Not being a speaker, I will give way to other men who are. Again, I thank you for this manifestation of your regard." This brief speech, delivered in clear, manly, voice, elicited prolonged cheers and cries of approval.

General A. P. Hill was called for. He came forward and bowed. General J. E. B. Stuart said that he was gratified to see Virginia doing honor to the heroic son of Kentucky. Virginians did honor to themselves in honoring him. Some of his Kentucky friends had just whispered to him that he and General Morgan were rivals. It was true that they were rivals—rivals in a glorious cause, rivals in a cause which he hoped both would win.

Judge Moore, of Kentucky, said that what General Morgan said was a round the statues of Washington and Henry on your monument, equal honor to the hero of the South and the memory of General R. E. Lee.

Ex-Governor Letcher and Governor John S. Comer, of Kentucky, being called for, advanced and bowed to the throng.

Colonel Robert Allison, of General Morgan's staff, and General Edward Johnson, of the Confederate army, were appointed by party committees in the manner provided by the laws governing general elections.

4. Are you in favor of taking away from party committees the power to decide contested primary election cases, and placing said contests in the courts, where witnesses can be compelled to attend, and where false swearing may be punished as perjury?

5. Are you in favor of a law prohibiting the judges and clerks from using their influence at the polls for or against any candidates at general and primary elections?

6. What, in your opinion, is the solution of the tax question—do you favor segregation or a central board of equalization?

7. Do you favor the enactment of additional legislation facilitating the collection of the \$1516,442.36 delinquent poll taxes now overdue three years, exempting delinquents whose income is less than \$500 per month?

8. Do you favor any change in the fee system? If so, do you think it should be changed to suit conditions which evidently did not exist when our present laws on the subject were passed. I am not prepared to say by what precise means our tax laws can best be made equal and accurate, just and efficient; nor do I think that a reform of such importance can be fairly considered in the hurly-burly of a sixty-day session. I should be in favor of the whole matter being referred to a committee to consider the various plans proposed, and report to an extra session to be called later. I should vote for any proper measure that will give relief from our present burdensome tax laws.

The system of compensating public officials by fees is an evil, and should be corrected. The compensation of public officers should be based on the service rendered, and should be fixed by law. The minimum amount to be paid each official might be regulated in the respective counties and cities according to population. I should vote for a proper bill along these lines.

If it should seem absolutely necessary that all of the money now in the treasury should be expended, it does appear that our public school system should be improved. I believe any balance should be wisely conserved, but I can conceive of no greater good to the State at large than increasing the facilities of our public schools.

N. E. Spessard, of Allegheny and Craig.
1. No.
2. Prevent paying of poll taxes in bulk.
3. Party committee.
4. No, but would allow right of appeal to courts.
5. Yes, all active influence, but should be allowed to give information to voters when requested.
6. Absolutely opposed to a central board. I favor segregation if it can be adopted without too many hardships to certain cities and counties. I prefer a reduction of State tax rate, and leaving the assessments as now. Am fully convinced that if the truth

Senator P. H. Drewry, of Petersburg.
I am heartily in favor of any law that will promote the purity of our elections. It is absolutely essential under our form of government that the majority will, if freely and fully and fairly expressed, should control.

I do not believe that public sentiment at this time demands that every fraudulent act in our elections should be made a felony. We are not far enough removed from that dark time "after the war," when the preservation of our civilization required political acts that would now be condemned. I can conceive of no greater good to the subject as to desire such drastic punishment in every case. In many cases, if the punishment were too severe, juries would not convict.

A law prohibiting attempts to control voters by paying them money for the should, of course, be made effective. Some requirement concerning the publication at stated intervals of the names of those who had paid poll taxes, and if paid by any other person, by whom paid, might assist in correcting this evil. I have been working on a bill to this effect.

Of course, judges and clerks of elections should not use their influence at the polls for or against any candidate.

Taxation is the most important problem in Virginia to-day. Our present system is unjust and unequal, and

THE GREATEST MOMENT IN HISTORY.



HIS FIRST GAME UNDER A HUNDRED

Views of Our Legislators on Virginia's Needs

Measures Which Will Be Urged in the General Assembly

The Times-Dispatch has addressed to the members of the coming General Assembly a request for their views on a number of important questions that will come before them. In these columns we print from day to day the answers members have forwarded.

Questions for Our Legislators.

1. Are you in favor of making fraud in elections a felony?
2. Do you favor effective laws prohibiting and punishing attempts to control voters by paying their poll taxes for them?
3. Do you believe that the judges and clerks of primary elections should be appointed by party committees or in the manner provided by the laws governing general elections?
4. Are you in favor of taking away from party committees the power to decide contested primary election cases, and placing said contests in the courts, where witnesses can be compelled to attend, and where false swearing may be punished as perjury?

Du Val Radford, of Bedford.

1. Yes, when they are proven to be intentional.
2. Yes.
3. By laws governing general elections.
4. Should be decided by the courts; and the will of the people will prevail.
5. Yes.

6. I believe in local boards for the counties and cities, for they will be better acquainted with the values and conditions. A central board would be better, perhaps, for the State.

7. Yes, I would exempt only the old soldiers; and, I mean the real soldiers who stayed close enough to hear the bullets.

8. Yes, I believe more money can be collected by the fee system, but the State should know and regulate the compensation of every employee.

9. Yes, most emphatically.

10. I am not.

11. No, I think it more expensive.

12. I am opposed to the payment of salaries or appropriations beyond the present actual needs. But there are two things for which a larger appropriation should be made, even if it is done at a sacrifice to everything else. These are pensions to the few remaining Confederate soldiers and widows, and second, a big increase in the appropriation to the primary schools in the rural districts, for these are a disgrace to the State of Virginia. There should be an increase, if possible, in the State aid road fund. I am heartily in favor of some way to protect the game of the State; for it will soon be annihilated under present conditions.

I am heartily in favor of any law that will promote the purity of our elections. It is absolutely essential under our form of government that the majority will, if freely and fully and fairly expressed, should control.

I do not believe that public sentiment at this time demands that every fraudulent act in our elections should be made a felony. We are not far enough removed from that dark time "after the war," when the preservation of our civilization required political acts that would now be condemned. I can conceive of no greater good to the subject as to desire such drastic punishment in every case. In many cases, if the punishment were too severe, juries would not convict.

A law prohibiting attempts to control voters by paying them money for the should, of course, be made effective. Some requirement concerning the publication at stated intervals of the names of those who had paid poll taxes, and if paid by any other person, by whom paid, might assist in correcting this evil. I have been working on a bill to this effect.

Of course, judges and clerks of elections should not use their influence at the polls for or against any candidate.

Taxation is the most important problem in Virginia to-day. Our present system is unjust and unequal, and

ought to be entirely abolished or modified so as to require all fee officers to pay into the public treasury all fees collected by them over and above certain fixed, just compensation.

9. Are you in favor of a law requiring all persons employed to influence legislation to register with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, stating by whom employed and paid and the amount of their compensation?

10. Are you in favor of having open sessions of all legislative committees?

11. Are you in favor of electing State delegates to the national convention at a primary election?

12. Are there any other questions on which you desire to express your opinion?

where known, there is not the inequality that some believe exists, for there is usually a reason for the apparent inequality. Public sentiment is rapidly improving these conditions. Also the lower the State tax rate, the less any inequality would effect any section of the State.

Yes, but am opposed to any exemption of every session, to all members in preparing bills, obtaining necessary information, etc. This would cost very little and would save much litigation over bills improperly drawn.

No, I do not believe members of the Virginia Legislature can be unduly influenced; have never known one to be.

Should be left to each committee to decide. Very often more careful consideration can be given to a subject in executive session.

No.

I favor a bureau of information and aid to be established at the beginning of every session, to all members in preparing bills, obtaining necessary information, etc. This would cost very little and would save much litigation over bills improperly drawn.

N. E. Spessard, of Allegheny and Craig.
1. No.
2. Prevent paying of poll taxes in bulk.
3. Party committee.
4. No, but would allow right of appeal to courts.
5. Yes, all active influence, but should be allowed to give information to voters when requested.
6. Absolutely opposed to a central board. I favor segregation if it can be adopted without too many hardships to certain cities and counties. I prefer a reduction of State tax rate, and leaving the assessments as now. Am fully convinced that if the truth

Kipling.
Please tell me when and where Rudyard Kipling was born.
In Bombay, December 30, 1865.

Retarding Shells.
No dealer seems to be able to tell me how much semismokeless powder to allow for .45 pistol shells. Can you?

The cavity would indicate closely enough. Twenty grains is the service allowance of King's PPG, the usual powder for the purpose.

The Benefits of Saving

The benefits which arrive from carefully saving a portion of one's income cannot be seen beforehand. They are appreciated only as occasion presents itself. A Savings bank fund always proves of great assistance in times of adversity or disaster.

Interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum is allowed on savings accounts of one dollar or more in this bank.

National State and City Bank
1111 East Main Street